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VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF VERIFICATION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/68 of 16 December 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995 (see A/C.1/50/PV.3-11). Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.13-17). Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.18-29).

4. In connection with item 59, the First Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (A/50/377).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.12

5. At the 15th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Hungary, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" (A/C.1/50/L.12), which was later also sponsored by Bangladesh, Kazakstan, Kenya, Paraguay, Poland, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.12 by a recorded vote of 140 to 1, with 7 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1/ Subsequently, the delegations of Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago stated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Affirming its continued support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission, 2/

Stressing that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally recognized and that the issue of verification is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recalling its resolution 48/68 of 16 December 1993, in which it requested the Secretary-General, as a further follow-up to the 1990 study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification 3/ and in view of significant developments in international relations since that study, to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study on verification issues identified in that resolution,

Also recalling that, in its resolution 48/68, it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 4/ which was unanimously approved by the Group of Governmental Experts on Verification in All its Aspects, including the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification, and commends the report to the attention of Member States;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to give the report the widest possible circulation and to seek the views of Member States on the report;

3. Encourages Member States to consider the recommendations contained in the report and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where they consider it appropriate;

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

3/ The Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IX.11).

4/ A/50/377.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the views received from Member States on the report and on actions taken by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat with respect to the recommendations contained in the report;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".